

New Middleton School Parental Involvement Plan

New Middleton School believes positive parental involvement is essential to achieve maximum social, emotional, and academic growth, in accordance with the state's high academic standards, and encourages participation of parents in all aspects of their child's education.

Strategies to Increase Parental Involvement

Development of the School-Wide Plan/Parental Involvement Plan

New Middleton School will:

- Involve parents in the development of the School-Wide Title I Plan. Parents are members of the School-Wide Title I Advisory Committee and are integral in the development of the School-Wide Plan which includes the Parental Involvement Plan.
- Involve Parents in the joint development of the Parent Involvement Plan.
- Provide open forum for information and decision making at PTO meetings.
- Administer a Needs/Evaluation survey in the spring of each year seeking input about the effectiveness of the overall school-wide program and parental involvement plan. Information compiled is used along with other data in the comprehensive needs assessment to determine the over all effectiveness of the School-Wide program and the parental involvement plan.
- Make available to parents and the local community the School-Wide Parental Involvement Plan. The School-Wide Plan is made available to parents in the following venues:
 1. School Website
 2. NMS Parent Center
- Parents are notified at the annual meeting that they can make comments if they disagree with any aspect of the Title 1 plan which includes the Parent involvement plan.
- Parents are notified that the Spring Needs/Evaluation survey is an excellent opportunity to make comments and suggestions for program improvement. A comment section is provided for narrative response.

Annual Parent Meeting and Opportunities for Participation

New Middleton School will:

- Convene an annual meeting that will encourage and facilitate parent attendance for the purpose of informing parents about the School-Wide program and Title I requirements.
 - New Middleton School invites all parents to an annual meeting during the fall school to explain the School-Wide Title I Plan. Included in this explanation are the benefits and activities, federal guidelines, and the role, rights and responsibilities of all parents in the education of their children.

- Parents are also notified of their rights to know the qualifications of their child's teacher and if that teacher is highly qualified. They are also notified if their child is taught by a paraprofessional.
- Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning review and improvement of the School-Wide program.
 - Parents are members of the program planning committee.
 - Parents are involved in the development of the parent plan.
 - Provide an open forum for information and decision making at PTO meetings.
 - Administer a Needs survey in the spring of each year seeking input about the overall effectiveness of the schoolwide program and parent involvement plan.
 - Information is compiled to determine effectiveness of the program.
- Provide parents timely information about programs, curriculum, assessment, and achievement expectations; if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meeting to review and assist in improving student progress.
 - School calendar on website
 - Newsletters sent home weekly
 - Distribute information pertaining to parenting tips through the schools newsletters
 - Telephone calls to confirm student absences and to encourage better student attendance: a letter will be sent home once a student has accrued five unexcused absences
 - Newspapers
 - Invitations sent home for programs, conferences, open houses etc.
 - School marquee will be used to remind parents of upcoming events
 - E-mails sent to parents
 - School website will have links for use at home by parents with their children
 - E-mails may be sent to teachers
 - Conferences will be scheduled twice a year and more, if needed

Procedures to Submit Comments of Dissatisfaction with the School Parent Involvement Plan

Parents are notified that at the annual meeting and on the website that they can make comments if they disagree with any aspect of the Parental Involvement Plan.

- Parents are notified at the annual Title I meeting that the Spring Needs/Evaluation survey is an excellent opportunity to make comments and suggestions for program improvement. A comment section is provided for narrative response.
- Results of the survey are submitted to the central office to determine system-wide needs.

School-Parent Compact

The following compact is included in the NMS Handbook. Parents and students sign that they have read and agree to the terms in the compact on our registration form.

New Middleton Elementary School Parent/Teacher/Student Compact

Dear Parents/Guardian:

We value your role in working to help your child achieve high academic standards. It is our responsibility to join together to help your child achieve the State's high standards. The following is an outline of some of the ways you, your child, and the school staff can build and maintain a partnership to share the responsibility for improving your child's academic achievement.

School's Responsibility:

- ✎ Provide high quality curriculum and learning materials*
- ✎ Provide you with assistance in understanding academic achievement standards and assessments and how to monitor your child's progress*
- ✎ Provide opportunities for ongoing communication between you and teachers through, at a minimum:
 - *Annual parent-teacher conferences,*
 - *Frequent reports regarding your child's progress, and*
 - *Opportunities to talk with staff, volunteer in class, and observe classroom activities.**

Parent's Responsibility:

- ✎ Encourage your child to attend school regularly*
- ✎ Encourage your child to show positive school behavior*
- ✎ Review your child's homework*
- ✎ Monitor television watching and encourage positive use of your child's extra-curricular time*
- ✎ Volunteer in your child's school and classroom, if time or schedule permits*
- ✎ Attend parent-teacher conferences and participate, when appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of your child.*

Students Responsibility:

- ✎ Do homework everyday and ask for help when needed*
- ✎ Read at least 30 minutes every day outside of school time.*
- ✎ Give to my parents or the adult that is responsible for my welfare, all notices and information received by me from my school every day.*

This Compact may be discussed with you during a parent-teacher conference as it relates to your child's school progress. Thank you for your support and involvement in your child's education.

NMS Faculty

Building Capacity

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a alliance among New Middleton School, parents and the community that enhances student academic achievement, we:

- Shall provide parents with opportunities to understand state academic and achievement standards, state and local assessments and student progress through conference, annual Title 1 meeting, periodic parent meetings that are held during the day and in the evening at which time the school will explain how to understand:
 - ◆ TCAP scores
 - ◆ Thinklink scores
 - ◆ DIBELS
 - ◆ STAR
 - ◆ TCAP writing assessment
 - ◆ AR
 - ◆ Scott Foresman Benchmark
 - ◆ Progress Reports-Mid Six Weeks
 - ◆ Report Cards
 - ◆ Provide a Link on the Website to the State Report Card
 - ◆ PreK and K parent packets
 - ◆ Student's work will be sent home in weekly folders
- Shall provide opportunity to inform parents, faculty, staff, and principal on continuous partnership for improved student achievement
 - ◆ Parental Resource material area will be provided to be accessed by parents as needed in the NMS parent center
 - ◆ SF Reading Series "Family Times" newsletter will be sent home
 - ◆ Saxon Newsletter
 - ◆ School Newsletter
 - ◆ Classroom newsletters
 - ◆ A hard copy of all state curriculums will be available for parent and community review
- Shall provide faculty and staff training on the importance of working with parents as partners
 - ◆ Personal Development Days
 - ◆ Grade level Meeting
- Shall coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs
 - ◆ Grandparents' Day
 - ◆ Halloween Program
 - ◆ Christmas Program
 - ◆ End of Year Programs
 - ◆ Classroom Parties
 - ◆ Read Night
 - ◆ Accelerated Reader Home Connect

- ◆ NMS Website
 - ◆ Parent Teacher Conferences
 - ◆ Open House
- Shall work with local businesses and agencies to foster alliances with student and school recognition programs
 - ◆ PTO Outstanding Vols
 - ◆ Pizza Hut Most Improved Students every six weeks
 - ◆ Dekalb Library Art Contest
 - ◆ Outstanding students recognized in local paper
 - ◆ Local Banks honoring teachers
 - ◆ Dare Officer visiting school regularly
 - ◆ Teacher Appreciation Day
- Shall make every effort to assure that every note and document can be easily read by every parent
 - ◆ Documents converted to Spanish using o-line translator if needed
 - ◆ Shall involve parents in building and evaluating school programs

Parents' Responsibilities

All parents shall be expected to support their children's educational experience in the following ways;

- ◆ Provide a home environment that supports learning
- ◆ Provide a family routine that supports learning
- ◆ Read to younger children
- ◆ Provide a variety of reading materials in the home and frequently take children to the library.
- ◆ Promote school attendance
- ◆ Monitor children's television viewing and video games
- ◆ Provide a quiet place for children to do homework: help with and check homework every night
- ◆ Encourage children to participate in learning activities when school is not in session
- ◆ Praise and encourage children's efforts in school

Student/Teacher/Parent Shared Responsibility for High Performance

New Middleton Elementary School shall have a clearly stated school-parent-student compact which is included in the school's handbook. The compact shall outline how parents, school faculty and staff, and the student will all be accountable for improved student achievement, as previously noted. It will also provide a bridge on which the school and parents will build an alliance to help students achieve in accordance with the state's high academic standards. All parents and guardians will be able to comprehend the language of the compacts, even if an on-line translator must be used.

Teachers will become familiar with the pact by reading and discussions at faculty meetings. The teachers will then relay this information to the students in a way that the students will understand and have the students themselves sign their school-home pacts. After the students have signed their pact, they will return it to their teachers, who will file them for later use. They can be used for parent-teacher conferences and for teacher-student conferences. It can also be used for parent-student discussions, if necessary.

- Each year the compact will be reviewed and evaluated. If something needs to be omitted or added, it can be done at that time.
- Parents will also be able to add to the compact.
- The website can be used for parent input or a parent may have input verbally at meetings.
- The parents will also be encouraged to write his/her comments on the Parent Needs/Evaluation survey in the spring.

Accessibility

Our school shall try to the best of our ability to meet the needs of English as a Second Language students. We will use on-line translators as needed to help these students and parents to be aware of what the school expects of them.

Parents' Right-to-know

- A Parent's Right-To-Know letter is included in the registration packet. This information is also covered at an annual meeting and periodically at additional parent training.
- New Middleton Elementary will provide parents information about their right to know the qualifications of their children's teachers, paraprofessionals, or substitute teachers. They will be provided the means to see this via information about a link to the State Department of Education on our school and district website.
- Parents have the right to know that their children are being taught by a paraprofessional.
- When a student is being taught by a teacher who is not highly qualified, a notification letter is sent home to the parents of those children. When a substitute has been in the classroom for four consecutive weeks and is not highly qualified, a notification letter will be sent home to parents of those children.